



**NEVER
FORGET**

CONTACT

Team Travis
349th Air Mobility Wing

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"In Omnia Paratus"

Team Travis

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On the Front Cover: — The headquarters of the Department of Defense, struck by American Airlines Flight 77. Located in Arlington, Va. Military members rendered honors as fire and rescue workers unfurled a huge American flag over the side of the Pentagon during rescue and recovery work following the Sept. 11 terrorist attack. The attack came at approximately 9:40 a.m. as a hijacked commercial airliner, originating from Washington, D.C.'s Dulles International Airport, was flown into the southern side of the building facing Virginia Highway 27. See Page 9 for Travis Team 9/11 events. (U.S. Navy photo by Michael W. Pendergrass)

Contact magazine is the monthly, authorized publication for members of the U.S. military and their families. The contents expressed herein are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Air Force. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

Your decisions, your actions - your reputation



*by Col. John B. Williams
349th Air Mobility Wing Vice Commander*

The reputation of Travis Air Force Base and your personal reputation are interconnected. Serving at Travis says something about you and your role in the larger Air Force. It says you're in the major leagues. This idea is similar to the reputation the Spartan military earned by the actions of its individual soldiers. The soldiers of Sparta were armed with simple spear and shield. The Spartan phalanx was successful due to the individual discipline of its soldiers, to their individual choices to hold fast and maintain formation.

Today, we fight with technology considerably more complex than a spear and shield. The constant impact on contingency and humanitarian operations by the 60th and 349th Air Mobility Wings and the 615th Contingency Response Wing have earned us the reputation of being's America's first choice to deliver our nation's hope and might around the globe.

As individuals, we make decisions each day that guide our words and actions. The accumulation of these words and actions establish a pattern, and those patterns become our reputations. When your phone rings, it means someone needs your help to get the job done. How do you respond? You choose to solve the caller's problem or look for a way to make it someone else's problem. When you put up a stand at the aircraft, do you choose to follow the tech order or do you disregard it in the interest of time? Your decisions, your actions will determine your reputation as your pattern is revealed.

This is a large operation, but it is the interlocked efforts of many individuals that give Travis its reputation for excellence. The individual choices you make each day will determine your reputation and the reputation of our entire team. Consider both **YOUR** reputation and **OUR** reputation when you take actions today. How people think of us in the future is in your hands today.

Never Forget - terrorism will not win



*"All that is necessary for the triumph of
evil is that good men do nothing."
--Edmund Burke*

*by Chief Master Sgt. Louis Kloeppel,
349th Medical Group*

9/11 will be in our collective memories forever. It is one of those events frozen in time. You remember where you were, what you were doing and what your initial reaction was.

But what I believe is important and a true test history has given us, is what we have been doing since then. We have fulfilled a promise to our fellow Americans that our military responds. Since that time, every one of us has been doing our jobs each and every day, from the drudgery to the exciting and dangerous. We have been doing our part for the team, fighting the good fight.

What we all have been doing as military is a perfect example of how to overcome adversity. Overcoming adversity is defined by the way that all of us have responded since 9/11.

First, we all accepted our situation. It was and is okay to think of our loss and have solemn tributes, but after a period of time we must leave it behind.

An example of someone accepting his situation and making the best out of it is Randy Pausch, author of *The Last Lecture*. He was at the top of his game. A great career, a loving wife, three young kids and he is diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Given a very short time to live, before the inevitable happens, Randy gives a great final lecture. An inspiration to millions in his final months, his lecture shared wisdom and lessons for life that we all could follow. Like Randy, we as a nation, faced a devastating blow. All of us responded by being an awesome inspiration to millions by what we do each and every day.

Second, we all focused on what we **can** do. That reminds me of a story about Jean-Dominique Bauby, a well-known French journalist. He suffered a massive stroke and found all he could do was blink his left eyelid. His condition was called locked-in syndrome. He maintained all of his mental faculties, but most of his body was paralyzed. By using this single eye movement (one that we take for granted), he was able to write letters to friends and family and eventually write a book. By focusing on what we can do, we have been able to fight two wars and continue to be the world's premier military force.

Third, you were prepared for hard work. Hard work and setting goals is the key to overcoming adversity. Writing a book with the blink of an eye, writing and delivering your last lecture while undergoing chemotherapy, both take hard work. Jean-Dominique was able to do it, Randy Pausch did it. They set goals for themselves and worked to achieve them. Each day we know what it takes to get the job done, work above and beyond what is expected, and the results are awesome.

Fourth, we were persistent. Tenacity is the key. Some people give up after failing or when an obstacle is placed in their path. We did not give up. We continue to do great things, pushing through the difficulty, doing what is right. It was Patrick Henry who said "The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave."

Ten years after Sept. 11, 2001, today is still a glorious and wonderful day in our great nation. Americans will never bow to terrorism. We will never forget.

Because it is too hard to love people...

by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) LeBane Hall, 349th Air Mobility Wing

My friend has two kids who spend a lot of time together playing. One day, they were not playing well together as they both wanted the same toy, a dinosaur. It did not take long for the two of them to begin to fight and yell at each other. The father was busy doing something, but knew he needed to get into the mix and settle the fight. He grabbed the toy and tried to find out who should get it. He thought seriously about taking it with him, but he thought that would be a little too lazy. He thought better of saying what he wanted to say, "If you two cannot play together with this toy, I am going to take it and chop its head off."

He sat down with them, and asked if they truly loved the toy more than each other. They both answered with a resounding "Yes!" The father was dumbstruck. His sons had said the toy is *the most* important thing on the planet. So, the father took some more time, trying to help his sons understand what actually is important. He asked his sons another question, "Why do you love things more

(See People on Page 5)

60th Air Mobility Wing welcomes new commander

*by Staff Sgt. Timothy Boyer,
60th Public Affairs*

Col. Dwight Sones took command of the 60th Air Mobility Wing during a change of command ceremony Aug. 5 at hangar P-14.

Sones, who spent the last year as commander of the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing in Kyrgyzstan, joined the officer corps as a second lieutenant in 1988 after receiving his Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering at Pennsylvania State University, Pa.

Sone is rated as a command pilot with more than 3,300 flight hours logged. His flight experience includes seven different aircraft including the C-17 Globemaster III and the C-5B Galaxy.

Sones took command as Col. James Vechery, former 60th AMW commander, took his new position as Air Mobility Command's deputy director of operations at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Lt. Gen. Robert Allardice, 18th Air Force commander, presided over the Aug. 5 ceremony, in which he commended Vechery's performance and ability to form alliances with community members. He also praised the performance history of the new wing commander.

"The partnership with civic leaders he (Vechery) has formed is really extraordinary," said Allardice. "These are two of the finest leaders in our Air Force today."

All indications point to Sones continuing the Team Travis legacy and connectedness to the community.

"I'm excited that the Travis family extends beyond the gates to all of Solano County," said Sones. "This extended sense of family has been a key to the success Travis has enjoyed. That success will carry on as we remain America's first choice for global mobility."

Sones made an immediate impact on Harry Price, mayor of Fairfield, when the mayor learned the two shared Penn State as their alma mater. Price also was impressed by Sones resume, which includes 436th Airlift Wing vice commander from July 2009 through June 2010 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Sones is a Bronze Star, Aerial Achievement Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal and Meritorious Service Medal recipient.

"I think Colonel Vechery turned the reigns of the 60th Air Mobility Wing command over to a very fine officer in Colonel Dwight Sones," the mayor said. "I think the Sones family will fit in very well with the high standards that have already been set for the folks at Travis. I know they are very much involved in community activities and I look forward to the mayors and the board of supervisors working very closely with Colonel Sones as the new commander."

Sones' priorities upon assuming command include safety, mission accomplishment, caring for Airmen and their families and individual self improvement.

As the 60th AMW commander, Sones is responsible for the combined efforts of all operations and support activities associated with the worldwide air mobility mission. The colonel is responsible for ensuring the readiness and well being of nearly 22,800 active duty, Reserve and civilian personnel and their families.

"My wife Dana, my children Braydin, Karina, Torin and I are ecstatic to be the newest members of the Travis family," said Sones.



Lt. Gen. Robert R. Allardice, Commander, 18th Air Force, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., officiates the change of command, and welcomes Col. Dwight Sones as the new 60th Air Mobility wing commander, Aug. 5. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Ken Wright)

DoD no longer to use SSN on ID cards

Social Security numbers will no longer be on military identification cards. The effort is part of a larger plan to protect service members and other DoD identification card holders from identity theft, officials said.

Criminals use Social Security numbers to steal identities, allowing them to pillage resources, establish credit or to hijack credit cards, bank accounts or debit cards.

Currently, the Social Security number is printed on the back of common access cards, and on the front of cards issued to dependents and retirees. Beginning in June, when current cards expire, they will be replaced with new cards having a DOD identification number replacing the Social Security number, officials said. The DOD identification number is a unique 10-digit number that is assigned to every person with a direct relationship with the department. The new number also will be the service member's Geneva Convention identification number.

An 11-digit DOD benefits number also will appear on the cards of those people eligible for DOD benefits. The first nine digits are common to a sponsor, the official said, and the last two digits will identify a specific person within the sponsor's family.

Social Security numbers embedded in the bar codes on the back of identification cards will remain there for the time being, and will be phased out beginning in 2012. The department will replace identification cards as they expire.

"Because cards will be replaced upon expiration, it will be approximately four years until all cards are replaced with the DOD ID number," Matoush said.

The identity protection program began in 2008, when DOD started removing Social Security numbers from family member identification cards. (AFNS)



Aircrew Stan/Eval Visit Outstanding performers

Top Performers

Maj. Travis Kroll, 70th ARS
Capt. Thomas Ferguson, 349th AES
Master Sgt. Christine Palmer, 349th AES
Master Sgt. Vernon Ashley, 349th OG
Senior Airman Kimberly Saplan, 312th AS

Outstanding Airmanship

Lt. Col. John Bever,
312th AS
Lt. Col. Philip Hamilton,
349th OG
Senior Master Sgt. Russell Martin,
349th OG
Senior Master Sgt. John Moore,
349th OG
Senior Master Sgt. Robert
Stephens,
70th ARS
Senior Master Sgt. William Travers,
312th AS
Master Sgt. Kevin Jaeger,
79th ARS

People... (Continued from Page 3)

than people?" The answer was astounding: "Because it is too hard to love people..., I don't know how."

I think those kids hit on something that can pierce us to the heart. We so often seem to love things more than people, often because things are much easier to love. People can be difficult to be around and can cause us pain. Things can bring enjoyment and act the way we expect. Things can break, but new things can be purchased, often with upgrades. It can be hard listening to others, putting up with their egocentricities, disagreeing on issues amicably, finding out that others are different than us without being intimidated or judgmental toward them.

Multiply that by a lifetime and it can be exhausting. When we fall in love with someone, things start out great. They can stay great through the wedding and honeymoon. However, way too often that "love" only lasts a few years, and we find divorce easier than working out the issues. It is too hard to fix or improve the problems in the relationship to a level that can be acceptable, so people quit the relationship. We just do not seem to know how to relate to others, and this important part of our lives is only complicated by the world and the things in it!

My friend has told his kids consistently just how important they are to him, that each one is precious to him and to God. He has made it his priority to help his son and daughter relate to each other and to their parents. Toys are things to enjoy, but family and friends are more important. When our perspective changes and our efforts in relating to others grow instead of doing, we can find enjoyment in our relationships, instead of what we accomplish or maintain. Doing activities together with a focus on the person, instead of the thing, can bring joy and contentment in life. Our relationship to God can also be improved via additional time in worship, prayer and scripture. Strive to love others more than things and when you succeed, tell others!

Travis Team Air Expo 2011 “Skies Over

Air Expo 2011 theme recognizes the community partnership with Solano County. The Open House and Air Power Expo demonstrates the Air Force’s commitment to the American people.



Maj. J. R. Williams, commander of The Thunderbirds aircraft number six, gives the 'Thumbs-up' after landing here in preparation for the air show scheduled at Travis. The Air Force precision flying team was the air shows main event held at the base on the 30th and 31st of July. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Robert Wade)





Travis Air Force Base military working dog Brit chases down “suspect” Cody Stark of the “Good Day Sacramento” morning show. Stark, the popular weekend anchor and weather person for the show, broadcast live from the Travis flight line July 29, to talk up the July 30 and 31, 2011 Travis Air Power Expo and Open House. Featured performers for the event were the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds demonstration team. Brit, a veteran of two deployments to the war zone, easily took Stark down, and put the bite on him. “I was just goofing around, and I turned my head and he was right behind me,” said Stark. “Don’t try this at home, kids.” (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Master Sgt. Ellen Hatfield)



U.S. Air Force Thunderbird #5, lead solo Maj. Aaron Jelinek, approaches a Team Travis KC-10 Extender July 28, 2011 to receive fuel in-flight. In-flight refueling is a key component of Travis and ensures true global outreach. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Joshua Crane)

Hispanic Heritage Month:

Many backgrounds, many stories - one American spirit

**by Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Macasaet,
349th Equal Opportunity**

Celebrated in the U.S. since 1974, Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 commemorates Hispanic/Latino Heritage with a month long observation. According to the 2010 Census, of the 308.7 million people residing in the U. S., 50.5 million, or 16 percent, were of Hispanic or Latino origin. Moreover, there are about 1.2 million Hispanic veterans that have served in the U.S Armed Forces. With a theme of “Keeping the Promise: Unity, Strength, Leadership,” 2011 marks the 25th anniversary of this special month.

During this time, we reflect on the contributions of Hispanic/Latino Americans. Hispanic or Latino refers to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish descent, culture or origin, regardless of race. Hispanic/Latino Americans have made remarkable contributions in public service, politics, and military service. Taking the time to learn about the role of Hispanics in our national culture helps us understand the composition of our environments, including the environment of our Armed Forces. We can learn to appreciate and celebrate the value of diversity in our communities today.

According to the Library of Congress (LOC), Hispanic/Latino Americans have engaged in war on behalf of the U. S., demonstrating exceptional effort and sacrifice for our country while serving. Joseph V. Medina is one such individual. Medina followed the military tradition of his family which dated back to 15th century Spain. He entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1972 and worked his way through the ranks. He began as a platoon commander in charge of forty Marines. He was then promoted to battalion commander and, along with his unit, deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, caring for 15,000 refugees. During the Kosovo conflicts, he led the U.S. European Command. Due to his stellar duty performance, Medina was one of the first Hispanics to be promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the U. S. Marine Corps. Recently, he commanded the Expeditionary Strike Group Three during Operation Iraqi Freedom, during which he was responsible for developing the Iraqi Coastal Defense Force. Gen. Medina is just one example of how Hispanic/Latino Americans have become part of the fabric of the U.S. Armed Forces, whose influence is helping sculpt the face of America.

The list of contributions to America by Hispanic/Latino Americans is beyond the scope of this article, but in recognizing the accomplishments of a few great Americans, we may also honor and celebrate the unique Hispanic/Latino Heritage during this month long celebration. For more information visit the Hispanic Heritage Foundation at <http://www.hispanicheritage.org>, or visit <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>.



Team Travis commemorates 10th Anniversary of 9/11

With the passing of a decade, a decade marked by two wars, by the loss of more than 6,100 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guard still fighting against terrorism and for freedom, Travis AFB remembers, and pays tribute to those who perished on 9/11, and since then, for a noble and just cause.

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011, the base will begin the day with a Silent Vigil, to mark the terrible events of that day 10 years ago. It will start at 5:46 a.m., to coincide with the time on the east coast when American Airlines Flight 11 struck the World Trade Center North Tower. At each interval when an event occurred that day, a bell will be rung. A detail of four Airmen will rotate every 15 minutes to stand watch, and remember.

It is the A flight UTA for the 349th AMW, a duty day, so we will provide volunteer support to the day's events, making it a meaningful and true Team Travis effort.

Our community partners, to include the Mayors of our seven Solano cities, our Travis Regional Armed Forces Council, and our Honorary Commanders, are all invited as our special guests, to a 4 p.m. Retreat Ceremony at the base flagpole, in front of the 60th Air Mobility Wing headquarters.

Guest speaker for the ceremony, Col. Jay Flournoy, 349th AMW commander, was a young major on duty at the Pentagon on 9/11. He'll talk about his experiences that day. The ceremony includes the base Honor Guard performing a funeral flag folding, a 21-gun salute, and taps. It will be against the backdrop of Airmen from the three partner wings, standing in formation in the blue of service dress.

Across America and the world, ceremonies big and small, will mark this somber anniversary, but also celebrate the lives, and legacy, of those who died that day.

As a mural overlooking Ground Zero states so well, "the human spirit is not measured by the size of the act, but by the size of the heart." Their spirits are in our hearts always. We shall never forget.



Courtesy photo

ENLISTED PROMOTIONS

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

WHITE, TIMOTHY C. JR., 349th AMXS

ANDERSON, CARY R., 23rd CBCS

LAFFERTY, DAVID M., 312th AS

MASTER SERGEANT

LEE, RODERICK D., 349th AMDS

BOCOBO, EDWIN A., 45th APS

HARDEE, JAMES B., 70th ARS

ASPLING, JONATHAN, 349th CES

BOSTON, JAMES T., 945th AMXS

VRISMO, ERIK J., 312th AS

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

VARGAS, HECTOR, 349th AMDS

APOLONIO, ERIC A., 349th MXS

MATIONG, ALEX, 349th MXS

MASANGCAY, RONALD P., 349th SFS

DERINGTON, IRVIN M., 749th AMXS

PRATTE, JON M., 70th ARS

STAFF SERGEANT

BRINKLEY, CHANTAY, 349th AMDS

GALLOWAY, LIONEL, 349th AMDS

CONWAY, LISA F., 349th AMDS

SCHULTZ, JOSHUA M., 349th MXS

YAU, LESTER, 349th MXS

CORRALEJO, ALEJANDRO, 349th MXS

GLOVER, SHEENA, K., 349th SFS

SALGADO, DAVID B., 349th SFS

GUAJARDO, MICHAEL, 749th AMXS

LANDON, ANGELA K., 749th AMXS

NOYA, RUBEN D., 749th AMXS

CHRISTIN, JACOB H., 349th CES

JACKSON, JOSHUA D., 312th AS

MALLORY, JEREMY J., 349th AMXS

Effective August 2011 or earlier.

Enlistment Training Flight stands up

Story and photo by Senior Master Sgt. Ellen L. Hatfield, 349th Public Affairs

The 349th Air Mobility Wing is excited to welcome our newest Reserve and Wing Airmen, with the stand-up of a Training Flight. The purpose of the Flight is to help the new enlistee with the transition from being a civilian to an Airman, as well as prepare them better for Basic Military Training.

Travis was selected as one of five pilot bases to launch this Reserve program.

Beginning with the September A-flight Unit Training Assembly, the trainees will meet every Saturday of each UTA.

The agenda includes uniform standards and inspections, drill & ceremony, Air Force heritage, and physical training.

Flight Leader is Master Sgt. Heather Bradley, 349th AMW equal opportunity office. If you have questions or concerns, or want to volunteer to mentor these trainees, please contact her at 707-424-1693, or heather.bradley@us.af.mil.



One of the elite maintenance team of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds “high fives” a new Air Force enlistee July 30. More than 60 young men and women stood as a group on the Travis AFB flight line, during the 2011 Air Power Expo, and were sworn into the Air Force. For those choosing the Reserve, Travis is one of five pilot bases launching a Delayed Enlistment Training Flight. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Master Sgt. Ellen L. Hatfield)

Warrior of the month

Warrior of the month: Senior Airman Daniel Butler

Squadron: 749th AMXS

Job title: KC-10 Crew Chief

Hometown: Hesperia, Calif.

Years in service: 4 years

Family: He looks forward to having a wife and kids someday. He has four brothers and one sister.

Goals: “To be a minister for Jesus and continue to go to school at Sonoma Community College and eventually obtain a Bachelors Degree.”

Greatest achievements: “Giving my life to Christ and joining the Air Force.”

Hobbies: “I draw and play guitar.”



Photo by Senior Airman Amelia Leonard, 349th Public Affairs

Hiring freeze takes hold for civilians

Temp and term employees also face reductions

by Capt. Mary Danner-Jones, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Air Force officials announced the implementation of a 90-day hiring freeze effective as of Aug. 9. The freeze does not impact Air Reserve Technicians.

A firm commitment to keep spending within requested levels led to implement the hiring freeze across the civilian workforce, officials said.

In addition, the officials plan to reduce temporary and term employees and will implement both the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program and Voluntary Early Retirement Authority program.

Officials project that all major commands, direct reporting units and field operation agencies will be affected by these actions.

“We are operating in a very challenging fiscal environment and are focused on meeting mission requirements with a reduced budget,” said Lt. Gen. Darrell Jones, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower,

Personnel and Services. “We are mindful of the potential impacts of budget constraints on our civilian force and their families, which is why we are seeking to reduce the need for involuntary measures.”

The 90-day hiring freeze is intended to quickly reduce civilian strength levels to budgetary limits and enable future hiring to support the most critical mission requirements.

“We will do our utmost to provide timely, candid communication on specific efforts as details are finalized,” General Jones said.

For additional information on civilian workforce reduction measures, personnel should contact their local civilian personnel office, or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102. The Total Force Service Center delivers personnel services to regular Air Force, Air National Guard, Reserve, civilian and retiree populations.

349th Wing Traditional Reserve Vacancies

AFSC	AFSC Title	Rank	AFSC	AFSC Title	Rank
11G3	Generalist Pilot	Officer	3E971	Readiness	TSgt
11M3K	Mobility Pilot, General	Officer	3M071	Services	MSgt
11M2A	Mobility Pilot, General	Officer	3S271	Education & Training	SSgt/TSgt/MSgt
11M3S	Mobility Pilot	Officer	43H3	Public Health	Officer
11M3Y	Mobility Pilot	Officer	43P3	Pharmacist	Officer
12M3	Mobility Navigator	Officer	44F3	Family Physician	Officer
14N3	Intelligence Officer	Officer	44M3H	Internist	Officer
1A151	Flight Engineer	SSgt/TSgt	44Y3	Critical Care Medicine	Officer
1A291	Aircraft Loadmaster	TSgt/MSgt/SMS	45S3A	Surgeon	Officer
1C371	Command Post	TSgt	45S3B	Surgeon	Officer
1N071	Operations Intell	TSgt	46F3	Flight Nurse	Officer
21A3	Aircraft Maint	Officer	46M3	Nurse Anesthetist	Officer
2A571	Aerospace Maint	TSgt/MSgt	46N3	Clinical Nurse	Officer
2T251	Air Transportation	SSgt/TSgt	46N3E	Clinical Critical Nurse	Officer
2T271	Air Transportation	MSgt/SMSgt	46N3H	Clinical Nurse	Officer
2T351	Special Purpose Vehicle	SSgt	46S3	Operating Room Nurse	Officer
32E3H	Civil Engineer	Officer	48A3	Aerospace Medicine	Officer
3E252	Electrical Power Prod	SSgt	4A091	Health Services Mgmt	SMSgt
3E251	Pavement & Const	SSgt	4N051	Aerospace Medical Svs	SSgt/TSgt/MSgt
3E451	Utilities Systems	SSgt	4N071C	Aerospace Med, IDMT	TSgt/MSgt
3E473	Enviro Controls	SSgt	4N091	Aerospace Medical Svs	SMSgt
3E651	Operations Management	SSgt	8F000	First Sergeant	MSgt/SMSgt
3D073	Cyber Security	TSgt	5J051	Paralegal Assistant	SSgt
3E851	Explosive Ordnance Disp	SSgt	52R3	Chaplain	Officer

For more information about these vacancies, go to <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure/MainMenu.asp>.

Six Flags Discover Kingdom's two-day Air Force birthday celebration

In order to help celebrate the Air Force's Birthday Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Solano County's premier destination for family fun, will offer discount admission to United States military personnel, retirees and their families on Saturday, September 17, 2011, as well as the following day, Sunday, September 18, 2011.

During this event, any member of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard may show their military ID at Six Flags America ticket booths to receive a one-day admission to the park for \$21.99 (regularly \$49.99) and parking for \$10 (regularly \$15.) Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, is open from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sept. 17, and 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sept. 18.

In addition, as part of an ongoing salute to service members and their families, Six Flags America offers military discount tickets throughout the season. These discounted tickets are available exclusively at Information, Tickets, and Tours office, located on Travis Air Force Base, 707-424-0969.

The discount is offered to any persons eligible to purchase tickets at on-base locations.

This giant theme park boasts to be America's only combined marine life, wildlife and wild rides theme park; delivering Northern California's best family entertainment experience.

349th Wing Enlisted Workshop

The 349th AMW will hold its annual Wing Enlisted Workshop beginning on Thursday, Oct 6-7, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Aerial Port Facility, Bldg. 921. Military: Uniform of the Day. POC: Chief Master Sgt. Darlene Chaboude, 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, 707-424-0122. Please R.S.V.P. by Sept. 30.



VA official reach out to veterans to explain upcoming changes to GI Bill

Department of Veterans Affairs officials are reaching out to inform veterans of recent changes made by Congress to the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

"The Post 9/11 GI Bill is incredibly important because it reduces the financial burdens of higher education so that veterans have an opportunity to achieve their education goals," said Gen. Allison Hickey, undersecretary for benefits. "VA believes it is important for veterans to be aware of changes this year and learn

more about how these changes may affect them.

"It's hard to believe how far we have all

come with the Post-9/11 GI Bill the past two years," she said. "Today, more than 537,000 students have received over \$11.5 billion in GI Bill benefits to help them take charge of their future."

Changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, as of Aug. 1, include paying the actual net cost of all public in-state tuition and fees rather than basing payments upon the highest in-state tuition and fee rates for every state, capping private and foreign tuition at \$17,500 per academic year and ending payments during certain school breaks, to preserve veterans' entitlement for future academic semesters.

Beginning Oct. 1, eligible individuals will be able to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for programs such as non-college degrees, on-the-job training and correspondence courses, and they will be eligible to receive a portion of the national monthly housing allowance rate when only enrolled in distance learning courses.

VA officials are implementing the latest round of changes to the Post 9/11 GI Bill and have already begun processing fall 2011 enrollment certifications. The VA outreach has helped to increase participation by colleges and universities in the Yellow Ribbon program, which helps students avoid out-of-pocket costs that may exceed the benefit. Currently, more than 2,600 schools are participating in this program.

Complete information on the Post-9/11 GI Bill is available at: www.gibill.va.gov. VA's education information phone number is: 1-888-GIBILL-1. (AFNS)

ID card appointments available online

As of Aug. 1, 349th Wing members are now able to schedule ID card appointments online, using the following link: <http://appointments.cac.navy.mil/appointment/building.aspx?BuildingId=482>. Common access card (CAC) is not required, and this option is also available to retirees. Members have the option to make, or cancel appointments, using this link. Once the appointment is scheduled, members receive an email with a confirmation number. That number is required if the appointment has to be cancelled. Appointments are available in 30 minute increments. Only schedule one CAC per 30 minutes, and a maximum of two dependent ID cards per 30 minutes. If you have questions or concerns, please call Customer Service at 707-424-2345.

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★ Apply for benefits

Beginning October 1st you can use your **POST-9/11 GI Bill** for **on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and non-college degree programs.**

